

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OIC-04

SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /219 W

----- 107443

R 150917Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 648

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UN UR

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB) EXPERTS GROUP

REFS: A. STATE 49098; B. STATE 21277; C. USUN 856

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SUMMARY: FONOFF WILL RECONSIDER ORIGINAL DECISION NOT

TO PARTICIPATE IN ROB EXPERTS GROUP BUT WOULD NOT HOLD OUT MUCH GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A, EMBOFF CALLED MARCH 15 ON FONOFF UN BUREAU ASSISTANT DIRGEN NOMURA. DISARMAMENT DIV HEAD NOMURA AND ACTION OFFICER (SUGIUCHI) FROM UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIV ALSO PRESENT. EMBOFF DREW ON ARGUMENTATION CONTAINED REFS A AND B. REF C ALSO WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL BECAUSE FONOFF HAD SEVERAL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON INTERESTS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN PARTICIPATING.

2. ASST DIRGEN NOMURA RESPONDED THAT, AS USG AWARE, GOJ HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ROB EXPERTS GROUP BECAUSE IT EXPECTS NO FRUITFUL OUTCOME WITHOUT PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL SC PERMANENT MEMBERS. AT SAME TIME, NOMURA ACCEPTED VALIDITY OF US POSITION FAVORING AS MINIMUM SOME PARTICIPATION BY RESPONSIBLE STATES. APART FROM SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS, GOJ ALSO HAS TACTICAL DIFFICULTIES SINCE IT WOULD WISH TO AVOID BEING ISOLATED (APART FROM US) IN EXPERTS GROUP OR BEING PLACED IN POSITION OF CONFRONTATION WITH THIRD WORLD. DOMESTIC POLITICS ARE ANOTHER FACTOR SINCE GOJ DID NOT

WISH TO APPEAR AS AUTOMATICALLY OPPOSING SEEMINGLY CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET INITIATIVE.

3. NOMURA THEN SAID THAT FONOFF MIGHT BE PREPARED TO REVERSE PREVIOUS NEGATIVE DECISION DEPENDING ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS. DECISION OF BELGIUM TO PARTICIPATE WOULD BE DEFINITE PLUS IN GOJ EYES, AND IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF FRG AND/OR ITALY WOULD ALSO JOIN. NOMURA ADDED THAT IDEAL CANDIDATE (FROM GOJ POINT OF VIEW) WOULD BE UK, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD HMG HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED SECRETARIAT THAT UK WILL NOT SEND EXPERT. HOWEVER, HE WONDERED WHETHER NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO RECONSIDER. IN MAKING THESE OBSERVATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOMURA ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT USG REPRESENTATIONS IN OTHER CAPITALS, TO WHICH EMBOFF WAS ABLE TO RESPOND ON BASIS OF REFTELS.

4. NOMURA SAID FONOFF UNDERSTANDS THAT USG REP WILL BE BECKER OF RAND CORPORATION, AND HE INQUIRED IF BECKER'S STATUS WILL BE SUCH AS TO REQUIRE SENATE CONFIRMATION.

5. IN CONCLUSION, NOMURA SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR DEMARCHE TO HIGHER AUTHORITY AND THAT FONOFF WOULD RECONSIDER MATTER, BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY OPTIMISM ON OUR PART, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF PARTICIPATION BY ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF WEO.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE NOMURA'S REMARKS AT FACE VALUE. THERE APPEARS TO BE ONLY SLIGHT CHANCE THAT FONOFF WILL REVERSE DECISION, AND ONLY HOPE OF OUR PERSUADING THEM LIES IN GETTING BELGIAN COMMITMENT AS MINIMUM. THIS ISSUE IS NOT ATTRACTING MUCH INTEREST IN FONOFF, SO IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO EXERT FURTHER PRESSURE, WE SUGGEST HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO JAPANESE MISSION AT UN, WHERE TACTICAL ASPECTS OF SITUATION ARE MORE PERSUASIVE THAN THEY ARE HERE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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